

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY / NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BETHESDA  
BRAC INTEGRATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY – OCTOBER 17, 2017**

- Ilaya Hopkins called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. BIC and audience members introduced themselves.
- Updates from Phil Alperson, Montgomery County Military Installations (BRAC) Coordinator:
  - Check out the County's BRAC site:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/>
  - Matters discussed at BIC meetings are detailed chronologically with background material on the website's "Get Involved" Page:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/brac/getinvolved.asp>
  - Printable Timeline: Anticipated Construction-Related Traffic Disruptions in Bethesda:  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/brac\\_projects\\_timeline.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/brac_projects_timeline.pdf)
  - BRAC Transportation Projects and Commuting Options:  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects\\_glance.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects_glance.asp)
  - Phil reminded the Committee to get traffic and BRAC news and information first by following Montgomery County BRAC on Twitter @BracMoCoMD
- Updates on the MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Project at the Medical Center Metro Station (Phil Alperson, Frank Kingsley (MCDOT), Phil Sheridan (Clark Construction)):
  - News and documentation can be found on the County's comprehensive Crossing Project web site (<http://md355crossing.com/>) that supplements the County's BRAC web site ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/)) and Twitter account (@BRACMoCoMD). The site includes photos of the ongoing construction.
  - **Blasting to excavate the 135-foot deep elevator shaft to the Metro mezzanine has been ongoing, with single blasts occurring once per day, usually twice per week.** Currently the shaft is down to approx. 80 feet, which is deep enough that vehicle and pedestrian movements are no longer being restricted during the blasting. The downward excavation may be completed in mid-to-late November, after which tunneling from the shaft to the Metro station will commence.
  - **Pedestrian safety is a major issue and an ongoing problem during project construction.** Despite the presence of signage and occasional police enforcement, many pedestrians are not obeying detours around construction and are walking through the construction zone or are jaywalking across MD 355. MCDOT is considering a number of mitigations, including additional signage,

barricades, and routing commuter busses away from the stop on southbound MD 355 and into the transit center.

- **Lane closures, which have not been needed since last spring, may become necessary after Thanksgiving when construction of elevator for the pedestrian underpass moves forward.**
- **Committee members suggested that the County develop a long-term plan for community artwork or displays inside the pedestrian underpass reflecting the history of NSAB, Walter Reed, NIH or the surrounding community.**
- **SHA INTERSECTION UPDATES: Christopher Bishop provided a report on the two currently active intersection projects.** His report can be viewed on the BRAC web site ([http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/BIC-SHA\\_Update-101717.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/BIC-SHA_Update-101717.pdf)) and is printed here:
  - **MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road) at Cedar Lane/Oakmont Drive**
    - Construction is now 68 percent complete
    - The current estimated completion date for the project is 12/31/17
    - Paving is expected to begin 10/23/17 and should be complete by mid-November
    - Line striping/pavement marking work will begin once all paving work is complete
    - Crews are currently placing topsoil and sod within the project limits
    - Landscaping on NIH campus will begin once line striping work complete
    - All other project landscaping will begin by the end of October
    - All landscaping should be complete by 12/31/17
    - Permissible lane closures through the end of the project for all roads within the project limits are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
    - Additional lane closures and work times may be necessary to complete all phases of work and keep the project on schedule
  - **MD 355 (Rockville Pike) at Cedar Lane/West Cedar Lane**
    - Landscaping crews are scheduled to return to the project limits this week to begin planting approximately 111 tree saplings on the NIH campus.
    - The tree planting work should be complete by the end of October
    - Once the tree planting work is complete, crews will mobilize on southbound SB MD 355 to clean up plant beds, replace any dead or dying trees or shrubs and perform remaining landscaping work
    - A fencing contractor is scheduled to return to the project limits by the end of the month to complete any remaining fence work
    - Permissible lane closures for all remaining landscaping work are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on MD 355, Cedar Lane and West Cedar Lane
    - All remaining punch list items including landscaping and fence work should be complete by the end of November

- **For more information about either of these projects, please contact Mr. Steve McVeigh, MDOT SHA Project Engineer, at [jmcveigh@sha.state.md.us](mailto:jmcveigh@sha.state.md.us) or (304) 616-2799.**
- **In addition to Christopher's report, Derek Gunn reported:**
  - Updated signalization has been activated at MD 355/Cedar Lane/West Cedar Lane, with enhanced left turns during off-peak hours from northbound 355 onto westbound West Cedar Lane, and from southbound 355 onto eastbound Cedar Lane.
  - Derek will notify District 3 Engineering about reports that signage is confusing on MD 355 at Jones Bridge Road when Dynamic Signaling is not in effect.
  - He also will look into the operation of the signal at MD 187/West Cedar Lane when that project is completed at the end of the year.
  - Derek noted that recent staff changes at District 3 have caused some work delays but that engineering staff is catching up.
- **Phil reported that SHA has determined that so-called "Phase 4" of the MD 355/Cedar Lane Intersection Improvement Project has been deemed unnecessary because of the addition of the previously unanticipated traffic signal on MD 355 at North Wood Drive.** OEA will reprogram for other BRAC projects the funds that would have been used for Phase 4 but had not been formally obligated to the project.
- **NSAB UPDATES:** Captain Jones, Ryan Emery and Jeremy Brooks are in frequent communication with residents of adjoining neighborhoods to resolve issues related to construction on the NSAB campus. NSAB strives to be a good neighbor and is sensitive to matters such as overflow contractor parking and construction-related noise. NSAB is planning an extended on-site visit for BIC members to refresh the BIC on NSAB infrastructure. A DOD website offers a good overview of NSAB (<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/537593/nsab-overview>) and the campus newspaper, the Journal, can be viewed on-line (<http://www.dcmilitary.com/journal/>).
- **NIH UPDATES:** Susan Roberts noted that NIH is in the process of installing new lighting for the MD 355 shared use path between West Cedar Lane and South Drive. NIH is working with SHA to finish landscaping and fencing related to the MD 355/Cedar Lane and MD 187/West Cedar Lane Intersection Improvement Projects. NIH is also working with SHA and MCDOT to address pedestrian-vehicle conflicts where the Trolley Trail extension along MD 187 crosses NIH entrances.
- **SUBURBAN HOSPITAL:** Leslie Weber reported that the new garage construction is complete, and that progress on the new hospital buildings is moving well, with completion anticipated in 2019.

- **BIC 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** Ilaya and other committee members shared thoughts about the extraordinary success of the community-based BRAC process that began when the BIC was established by County Executive Leggett in early 2007. There was no plan in place to address what everyone expected would be a traffic nightmare that could jeopardize the success of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. Ilaya made special note of the contributions, leadership and dignity of John Carman, the BIC's first chairman, who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. It took hard work, coordination and patience for the many community and government stakeholders to work together to identify, design and fund the transportation projects that have been completed or are in progress. Dan Wheeland of NIH submitted a letter to the BIC that reflects these thoughts:  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/BIC-NIH\\_Wheeland-101717.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/BIC-NIH_Wheeland-101717.pdf)
- **Ilaya adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm. The next Committee meeting schedule is TBD for early 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

**BRAC Committee members in attendance, October 17, 2017U:**

Steve Aldrich, Montgomery County Planning Dept., M-NCPPC  
 Phil Alperson, Montgomery County Military Installations (BRAC) Coordinator  
 Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Assn. and Chair of the BRAC Integration Committee  
 Ed Krauze, Bethesda Parkview Citizens Association  
 Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association  
 Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Home Owners Association  
 Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
 Eric Osberg, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart  
 Susan Roberts, National Institutes of Health  
 Leslie Weber, Suburban Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine

**Ex officio:**

Captain Marvin Jones, Naval Support Activity Bethesda  
 Ryan Emery, Installation Transportation Officer, Naval Support Activity Bethesda  
 Jeremy Brooks, Public Affairs, Naval Support Activity Bethesda  
 Joan Kleinman, Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen  
 Kathleen Connor, Office of Congressman Jamie Raskin  
 Cindy Gibson, Office of Council Member Roger Berliner

**Other Attendees (signed in):**

Derek Gunn, MD State Highway Administration  
 Lt. Jon Heiderich, Montgomery County Police, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
 Frank Kingsley, Montgomery County Dept. Of Transportation  
 Phil MacNeil  
 Jeanette Musil, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment (via telephone)  
 Paul Seder  
 Phil Sheridan, Clark Construction Group